

Environmental Defense, a nonprofit organization, was the key in reaching out to Long and provided funding for biologists to conduct population surveys for the toad on his property. Long is helping Environmental Defense and the Service promote Safe Harbor Agreements with private landowners.

Long also is working with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Department of Agriculture. His Safe Harbor Agreement will last until 2014, when he will decide whether to renew it.

His family has lived in Texas for generations. “I do love the land,” Long said. “This is my heritage.”

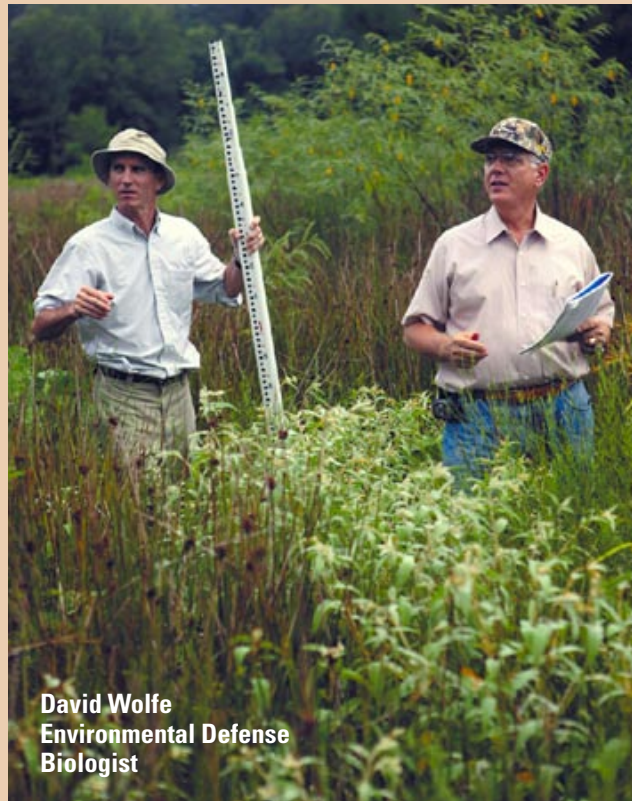
For more information:

www.fws.gov/endangered/recovery/harborqa.pdf

www.fws.gov/endangered/policy/safe_har.htm

www.fws.gov/endangered/index.html

Service regional contacts are listed on page 23.



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David Wolfe
Environmental Defense
Biologist

Safe Harbor Agreements

Private landowners are crucial for the recovery of listed species that occur mostly or solely on privately owned land. Through SHAs, landowners can put their conservation ethic to work, confident that their efforts will not result in increased restrictions on how they can use their land.

Voluntary actions by landowners with SHAs may include habitat maintenance or restoration activities or reintroducing a listed species on their land.



By June 2005, more than 325 landowners had enrolled over 3.6 million acres in 32 Safe Harbor Agreements. Among the 36 listed species covered are the northern aplomado falcon, red-cockaded woodpecker, California red-legged frog, gopher tortoise, San Joaquin kit fox, and Schaus swallowtail butterfly.



“Incentive programs, such as those represented by Safe Harbor Agreements, are much more effective in preserving species than the use of regulatory approaches. Partnership agreements that recognize the property rights of landowners while enhancing habitat present opportunities to make all participants winners.”

— Daniel Dierschke (second from left), Texas Farm Bureau, District 8 Director. Also pictured are Bobby Long, landowner (far left), Melinda E. Taylor, Environmental Defense (third from left), and Bob Long.